GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1088
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Forest Conservation
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed any mechanism to ensure protection, preservation conservation and growth of forests in the country;
(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the forest cover across the country, as on date;
(c) whether the Government has conducted any study on the shrinking of forests and the problems connected therewith in the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
(d) the salient features of the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) along with the details of the funds provided to the State Governments under the said scheme for forest management and protection across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) Protection, preservation and conservation of forests is primarily the responsibility of State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Ministry support the efforts of State/Union Territory Governments to protect, conserve and manage the forests. Financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories for various forest conservation and protection measures under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger etc. Further, to increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)" and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The State and Union Territory wise figures of Forest Cover in the country as per India State of Forest Report 2015 are at Annexure-I.

(c) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun assesses Forest Cover of on a biennial basis and the results are published in India State of Forest Report. As per the India State of Forest Report 2015, the forest cover of India is 701673 sq. km which is an increase of 3775 sq. km as compared to India State of Forest Report 2013.

(d) & (e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories for protection and management of forests. Funds under the scheme are largely utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, watch towers for detection and monitoring of forest fires, creation and maintenance of fire lines, survey and demarcation of forest areas, strengthening forest infrastructure and preparation of Working Plans.

The details of funds provided to the States and Union Territories under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme for forest management and protection across the country during each of the last three years and current year are at Annexure-II.
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